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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 2
48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007
INTRODUCED BY
Cisco McSorley

FOR THE COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT AND THE
CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT TO INCORPORATE AND IMPLEMENT
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS FOR JUVENILE AND ADULT OFFENDERS
AS A METHOD TO HELP HEAL VICTIMS OF CRIME, REDUCE RECIDIVISM,
FACILITATE OFFENDER REINTEGRATION AND PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES TO
INCARCERATION.

WHEREAS, crime increases fear, reduces quality of life
and causes injury to victims, survivors and communities; and

WHEREAS, while the criminal justice system prosecutes and
punishes offenders, the emotional and physical damage to
people and communities may often go unresolved; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice programs seek to repair the
harm caused by crime through a comprehensive and cooperative
process that enables the victim, the offender and affected

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1 members of the community to be directly involved in responding
2 to the crime; and

3 WHEREAS, restorative justice is a theory of justice that
4 is based on the common values and principles of
5 accountability, reparation, reintegration, inclusion and
6 effective communication; and

7 WHEREAS, restorative justice programs promote healing for
8 the victim by allowing the victim to voluntarily meet the
9 offender, to express the impacts of the crime and to encourage
10 the offender to take responsibility for the resulting harm;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, restorative justice rehabilitates offenders and
13 reintegrates them into the community by providing an
14 opportunity for the victim, the offender and community members
15 to develop a plan to address the harm together; and

16 WHEREAS, the shared responsibility in finding
17 constructive resolutions to crime gives communities a
18 meaningful voice in the cause and effect of crime in their
19 communities; and

20 WHEREAS, the community-centered approach of restorative
21 justice programs can contribute to reductions in recidivism,
22 increased compliance with restitution agreements and victim
23 satisfaction; and

24 WHEREAS, restorative justice practices can reduce costs
25 to the criminal justice system by providing alternatives to

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1 incarceration and decreasing judicial caseloads over time;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families
4 department and the corrections department be requested to
5 incorporate and implement restorative justice programs for
6 juvenile and adult offenders as a method to help heal victims
7 of crime, reduce recidivism, facilitate offender reintegration
8 and provide alternatives to incarceration; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of children,
10 youth and families and the secretary of corrections be
11 requested to report their progress in incorporating and
12 implementing restorative justice programs for juvenile and
13 adult offenders to the appropriate interim legislative
14 committee by November 1, 2007; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families
17 and the secretary of corrections.